

## ■ Alsip

(Continued from page 1)

The cleanup may be delayed because of the search by the agency and company for a hazardous waste incinerator willing to accept the toxins.

A hazardous waste incinerator in Arkansas, which agreed to destroy the contaminants from the Alsip site, recently had a mechanical breakdown. ENSCO, the Eldorado, Ark., company, could not accept the chemicals because a boiler explosion put it out of compliance with federal EPA guidelines, officials said.

Officials said they are scrambling to find another toxic waste incinerator that will accept the chemicals.

They said, however, that in some cases it has taken at least three months to destroy contaminants because of the small number of such incinerators nationally and the long waiting lists involved.

"There aren't a lot of those places around," O'Riordan said. "That's why we went to (the company) in Arkansas in the first place."

"There has been no deadline for the cleanup per se," O'Riordan said. "The deadline has been for them (company representatives) to respond (in the form of a written work plan)," he said, noting that they have been "very cooperative."

He said that the cleanup "deadline is contingent with when they find the place" that will accept the toxic chemicals.

The dump, which is under guard, is closed and leaking hazardous materials from four or five large tanks, officials said.

The site was under investigation by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency from 1985 to 1987. The IEPA dropped its investigation in 1987 on the recommendation of the Illinois attorney general's office.

An IEPA spokesman said evidence collected by the state agency is "too old" to support legal action by the attorney general's office.

Michelle Jordan, a spokeswoman for the environmental control division of the attorney general's office, said she was not prepared to comment on the matter when contacted Monday afternoon.

# Alsip dump site cleanup could take three months

By RUHAN MEMISHI  
Staff Reporter

ALSIP — Federal Environmental Protection Agency officials will retest the soil and creek water around an Alsip dump site, where a cleanup ordered last week could take as long as three months to complete.

Initial tests conducted by the EPA last month indicated that chemical vapors at Chicago Industrial Waste Haulers, 4206 W. Shirley Lane, were 11 times greater than allowable levels, officials said.

Although agency officials had feared that two toxic chemicals at the site could leak and contaminate nearby Stony Creek, test results ob-

tained last week indicated that there had been no penetration. The EPA said, however, that some pollutants were found on adjacent soil.

Despite obtaining those results, EPA spokesman Dan O'Riordan said Monday, the soil and creek need to be retested for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which are linked to reproductive disorders. Also among the chemicals found on the site is benzene, a known cancer-causing agent, the EPA said.

O'Riordan said that representatives of Chicago Industrial are required to submit a final work plan detailing all the activities to be involved in the federally ordered cleanup, including more in-depth

testing of the soil and water.

"That was just an immediate type thing," O'Riordan said of the first set of tests, adding that the second set may produce results indicating higher levels of contamination.

"Preliminary tests have indicated there shouldn't be any heavy contamination," he said. "They (the test results) are in the ballpark but we still would do other types of tests."

Although agency officials initially promised the contaminants would be removed by this week, O'Riordan said "in the worst case" it takes three months to clean up a hazard-

■ See ALSIP page 4

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## Tests water rules